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ABSTRACT

For over 30 years, Foxfire has been developing an approach to learning that is learner-centered and community-focused. Foxfire's initial success resulted from a successful student-produced magazine in a rural Georgia high school. Attempts to duplicate this success often overlooked the key ingredients, student choice and academic integrity, that made it work. Foxfire's investigation into the process that gave rise to its success led to the identification of 11 "core practices" that enabled the replication of the Foxfire experience. The realization that teachers would have to rethink their existing ideas to implement the core practices led Foxfire to shift its organizational emphasis from working directly with students to working with teachers. Section 1 of this book devotes a chapter to each core practice, providing an in-depth discussion of how each is interpreted by Foxfire, the research and theory that support it, how teachers can get started, and how they can develop their implementation of each practice. Section 2 presents eight examples of how teachers successfully implemented the core practices in their classrooms. The stories demonstrate four points: that teachers made a conscious decision to change, that they took the risk to begin implementing changes, that the teachers' use of the core practices was based on their personal interpretations of them, and that they refined their practices as they continued at their own pace. (Contains references and photographs.) (TD)

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